

REMARKS

Claims 9-14, 16 and 20-25 are all the claims pending in the application.

Anticipation Rejection over Kawamura '878

On page 2 of the Office Action, in paragraph 2, claims 9-14, 16 and 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Kawamura et al (US 6,811,878 B2).

In response, Applicants note initially that with regards to the limitation that the fine particles do not interact with the hydrophilic functional group of the graft polymer such that the movement of the fine particles is not hindered, the Examiner takes the position that the structure taught by Kawamura '878 meets the limitation given that the fine particle are capable of rotating (i.e., a type of movement) (see page 3, line 20 over page 4 line 2 in the Office Action).

Applicants submit that the cited reference does not anticipate (or render obvious) the invention as recited in the claims because, in the invention as recited in the claims, it is important that the movement of the fine particles is not hindered, which is different from the particles simply being capable of movement such as rotating. In this regard, hindered movement does not mean that there is no movement, so there can be hindered movement even in an embodiment where particles rotate. For there to be no hindered movement, the fine particles must be capable of transfer.

Further, Applicants note that the Examiner points out that although the applicant argue that the ionic binding in Kawamura '878 would hinder the movement of the fine particles, the claims as instantly recited do not preclude the fine particles from ionically interacting with the hydrophilic group (see page 6, lines 8 to 11 in the Office Action).

Applicants submit that the claims as instantly recited clearly preclude the fine particles from ionically interacting with the hydrophilic group because the fine particles do not interact with the hydrophilic functional group of the graft polymer.

Anticipation Rejection over Kawamura '029

On page 4 of the Office Action, in paragraph 3, claims 9-14, 16, and 20-25 are reject under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Kawamura et al (US 6,566,029).

In response, Applicants note initially that with regards to the limitation that the fine particles do not interact with the hydrophilic functional group of the graft polymer such that the movement of the fine particles is not hindered, the Examiner takes the position that the structure taught by Kawamura '029 meet the limitation given that the fine particle are capable of rotating (i.e., a type of movement) (see page 5, line 1 to 6 in the Office Action).

As with the preceding rejection, Applicants submit that the cited reference does not anticipate (or render obvious) the invention as recited in the claims because, in the invention as recited in the claims, it is important that the movement of the fine particles is not hindered, which is different from the particles simply being capable of movement such as rotating. In this regard, hindered movement does not mean that there is no movement, so there can be hindered movement even in an embodiment where particles rotate. Again, for there to be no hindered movement, the fine particles must be capable of transfer.

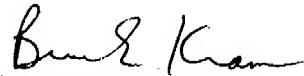
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce E. Kramer
Registration No. 33,725

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 28, 2008